

Record Crowd, But Seals Lose

OCT 17 1970

By JOHN PORTER
Tribune Sports Writer

The Boston Bruins, erupting for three goals in the third period, smothered the Oakland Seals 5-1 before a record sellout of 12,089 in the Arena last night.

But for two periods it wasn't the old case of the bulky Bruins kicking sand in the face of the skinny Seals.

Defenseman Carol Vadnais led a charge of bigger and stronger Seals.

Vad's hand was bleeding after bashing Boston's Phil Esposito in a second-period fight and came on like Gang Busters to dump Wayne Carleton in the third period.

For two periods Oakland seemed about to break loose, but Boston goalie Gerry Cheevers was a magician in the nets.

Only Dennis Hextall and Gary Croteau were able to dent the Boston net. On a

breakaway in the second period, Hextall passed off to Gary Croteau on his left wing, then took a centering pass 10 feet in front to the net and lifted the puck upwards and in for the only Oakland red light.

It made the score 2-1, but Boston was yet to show its firepower.

Esposito made it 3-1 in the third period with 7:51 gone and Johnny Bucyk got a power play goal less than two minutes later.

Bobby Orr, controlling play all over the ice, crossed the blue line, skated right across the goal mouth pulling Gary Smith with him, then edged the puck backwards for the final goal of the night.

Oakland, still without a win at 0-3, get another chance tonight against the Los Angeles Kings down South.

Once again it was the top Bruin line — and Orr — that did the most damage. Wayne Cashman, Esposito and Ken

Hodge got the first goal of the game and had the Seals reeling.

But Hextall, Wayne Muloin and Doug Roberts, who broke his stick pushing Derek Sanderson, had the Seals in contention during the second period.

Orr's two goals were his first of the 1970-71 League season.

The victory boosted Boston back into a first place tie with Montreal in the East Division. Both are 3-0.

But the Bruins, who were not pushing anyone around in Oakland for once, were skating grandly.

Orr was making full-length rushes and Esposito was stickhandling through traffic like a taxi in Rome.

Vadnais and Esposito almost went at each other again in the third period when the big Boston center came close to decapitating the Seal defenseman with a high stick.

The gloves were on the ice, but this time the linesmen were quick enough to keep the pair apart.

Seals coach Fred Glover had been emphasizing all week that the Seals couldn't fall behind and expect to stay in the game with the Bruins.

But the puck scooted into the Seals end on the opening faceoff and it was 1-0 Boston after 17 seconds had elapsed in the game.

The entire Bruins hot-scoring line had a hand in the quickie. Hodge picked up the unattended puck on the face-off spot to the right of Smith, flipped toward Esposito to who fed Cashman right in front of the net.

Five minutes later, Orr chalked up his first goal of the season — into an empty net.

Smitty kicked out a hard shot from Esposito on a swift rush. But the Seals goalie fell

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to the ice making the save. Orr was tailing the play and scooped a shot into the cords.

Oakland was able to pressure the Bruins, but Cheevers wasn't making any mistakes in the first period.

First period—1, Boston, Cashman 3 (Esposito, Hodge) 0:17 2, Bbston, Orr 1 (Cashman, Esposito) 5:26. Penalties—Vadnais Oak, 8:15; R. Smith, Bos, 10:55; E. Hicke, Oak, 12:14; Cushman, Bos, 18:01.

Second period — 3, Oakland, D. Hextall 3 (Cortea, Ferguson) 1:30. Penalties — Muloin, Oak, 3:23; Roberts, Oak, 7:19, Esposito, Bos major 17:17; Orr, Bos 17:17; Vadnais, Oak, Maior 17:17.

Third period—4, Bbston, Esposito, 5, (D. Smith, McKenzie) 7:51. 5, Boston, Bucyk, 2, (Esposito, McKenzie) 9:13. 6, Bxton, Orr, 2 (Westfall) 13:55. Penalties —Sanderson, Bos, 2:54, Carleton, Bos, (Major) 8:48, B. Huckle, Oak (Major) 8:48; Vadnais, Oak, 8:48; Hardy, Oak, 10:28; Esposito, Bxs, 11:45; Szackhouse, Oak, 15:41; Szanfield, Bbs, 16:06.

Shots on goal by:

Boston 11 14 8—33

Oakland 9 7 10—26

Goalies—Boston, Cheevers. Oakland, G.

A—12,089.

NHL Standings

West Division

	W	L	T	Pts.	GF	GA
Chicago	3	0	0	6	15	4
St. Louis	2	1	0	4	10	9
Philadelphia	2	1	0	4	8	7
Los Angeles	1	1	0	2	8	9
Minnesota	1	1	0	2	5	4
Pittsburgh	0	2	0	0	3	6
California	0	3	0	0	5	15

East Division

Montreal	3	0	0	6	9	4
Boston	3	0	0	6	20	9
New Ybrk	1	1	0	2	4	3
Toronto	1	1	0	2	10	8
Buffalo	1	2	0	2	2	7
Detroit	1	3	0	2	3	16
Vancouver	1	4	0	2	13	23

Seals Open Tonight; Four Still Unsigned

OCT 10 1970

By JOHN PORTER
Tribune Sports Writer

DETROIT—With the countdown to the first faceoff of 1970 rapidly approaching zero hour, the Oakland Seals still have the three H's and a backup goalie unsigned.

The Seals open their fourth National Hockey League season here tonight with the Detroit Red Wings in the Olympia before a sellout crowd.

The game will be broadcast live at 6 p.m. on KEEN (1370).

Still, not under contract, though, are veteran center Ted Hampson, the club's captain, rookies Ernie Hicke and Brian Rextall and second-string netminder Bob Sneddon.

Seal Vice-President Bill Torrey, frantically conferring with one player after another, is suffering from acute hunger pains.

"I've had two meals in the last two days," he said with a groan, "and both were breakfast."

But his persistence is working.

In the wee, small hours of the morning yesterday, defenseman Carol Vadnais and Harry Howell signed after first delaying, even though the league had finished with their arbitration.

Then, yesterday, defenseman Doug Roberts, center Earl Ingardfield, the Seals most accurate shooter last year, and winger Gerry Ehman agreed to terms.

A big disappointment for the Seals officials is the departure of their two top amateur picks from Providence—Chris Oddleifson and Peter Laframboise.

Neither is happy with the money the Seals are offering. They've both packed their skates and gone home.

"We're really concerned," Torrey admitted. "Those two represent a big part of the future of the Oakland Seals."

In other player moves, General Manager Frank Selke signed Randy Rota and Ted McAneely to Providence contracts and John Brenneman, a Seal in the first year of expansion, was put on waivers and released outright.

Seals coach Fred Glover canceled today's workout, citing the warm, muggy weather here as too much to cope with before tonight's game.

Detroit presents a new coach and a super star in a new role for the Seals review.

Ned Harkness, who piloted college teams, but never a pro club is the Red Wings' new boss.

And as one of his first moves, he switched Gordie Howe from right wing to defense.

"As long as Gordie Howe is on the ice," a wary Glover acknowledged, "be assured he's as much a threat on defense as at forward."

"It's no matter where they play him, he's going to score."

Glover said the Seals are stronger now than they were going into the opener last season, but the forwards will have to do better.

"Our goal production decreased 50 last year, almost 25 per cent, and that's not good," he said.

The Seals were 2-4 against Detroit last year.

Seal Games Oct 1, 1970 On Radio, 10 for TV

All 78 national ~~Hockey~~
League games on the Oakland
Seals' 1970-71 schedule, home
and away, will be broadcast.

A 5,000-watt San Jose radio
station, KEEN, will air the
games, a Seals spokesman an-
nounced yesterday.

The broadcasts will begin
Oct. 10 when the Seals open
the season at Detroit.

Ten games during the sea-
son will be televised over
KTVU, it was previously an-
nounced.

The Seals, according to the
spokesman, are mailing 500,-
000 brochures to business
firms.

Also, as a new gimmick, the
hockey club has invited 2,500
Bay Area barbers to a dinner
party at a Jack London
Square hall to introduce them
to the Seals.

Seals Get New Lease SEP 10 1970 On Ice

Charles O. Finley finally has a hockey lease at the Oakland Coliseum Arena.

Finley and Coliseum, Inc. have also agreed to arbitrate his baseball lease.

Coliseum, Inc. consented to assign the hockey lease to Finley after he paid \$25,000 of back baseball bills and put \$81,000 in an escrow account pending the arbitration, it was disclosed today.

The arbitration will be on parts of the Athletics' lease Finley is disputing, such as payments for parking lot cleanup, special officers and park rental for exhibition games.

Attorneys for Finley and Coliseum, Inc. are now trying to agree on an arbitrator.

The hockey lease has four years to run and options thereafter for a total of 15 years, according to William Cunningham, general manager of the Coliseum Complex.

The National Hockey League approved the transfer of the Seals ownership to Finley June 29.

At the time, R. T. Nahas, president of Coliseum, Inc., notified the hockey league of its dispute with Finley over the Athletics payments.

"Until these problems are resolved to our satisfaction," Nahas said in June, "We will not be able to discuss the hockey lease with Mr. Finley."

A series of subsequent meetings between attorneys representing Finley and Coliseum, Inc. resulted late last week in the lease assignment.

Arbitration of disputed matters is provided for in the baseball lease.

By ED SCHOENFELD

Seals Deny G AUG 11 1970 Debt Claim

By JOHN PORTER
Tribune Sports Writer

An attorney for Charles O. Finley today said a \$400,000 claim against the Oakland Seals by Scientific Resources Corp. of Montgomeryville, Pa., "doesn't involve us or the hockey team."

Reached at his Chicago office, attorney Bill Myers denied the Seals will be involved in a hearing before bankruptcy referee Sheridan Downey on the claim against the National Hockey League club and previous owner Transnational Communications, Inc.

The hearing, to be held in two or three weeks, was decided upon after the claim was referred to the Bankruptcy Court by U.S. District Court Judge George B. Harris in San Francisco.

"We did not buy the stock in the hockey club, only the assets," Myers stated.

"When the Finley Co. agreed to pay creditors specif-

ic debts, that (SNC's \$400,000) was not one of them.

"We assumed certain obligations, but it did not include that one. The amounts paid out July 10 were all we had to pay. If there's a controversy we're not a part of it."

Attorney for Scientific Resources, Donald B. McCaw, told the court he had been unable to learn from the Wells Fargo Bank escrow agent why his client's claim had not been paid.

He said the escrow was opened and closed July 10 behind "a wall of secrecy built around the transaction to defraud at least this creditor and the court as a consequence."

Downey noted that the Seals' bankruptcy case was dismissed June 30 because Seals' attorney Lynn Koller said a bid of \$1.5 million by

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Finley would pay off all creditors. However, the referee added that SRC was listed among the creditors.

There was a rumor TNC was about to merge with SRC, but McCaw's partner, June Barnum, said the April 2 promissory note was "strictly a financial transaction" as a loan.

"It's one of the questions

that has to be answered by the courts," she responded when asked if the claim could throw out Finley's purchase of the Seals. "It's a possibility."

Contacted at his Chicago hotel, Finley said the dealings with SRC were "before I got into the picture.

"I don't know anything about that (the upcoming hearing) at all," Finley said. "It couldn't be against us."

Judge Reverses Seals Bankruptcy Dismissal

G AUG 10 1970

The confused financial picture of the Oakland Seals hockey club was clouded again today when U.S. District Judge George B. Harris sets aside a June 30 dismissal and referred the matter back to Oakland bankruptcy referee Sheridan Downey.

Downey had dismissed the case on the representation of the club's attorney, Lynn Koller, that Charles O. Finley's winning bid of \$4.5 million would be "adequate to pay all creditors."

San Francisco Attorney Donald B. McCaw, representing

Scientific Research Corp. of Montgomeryville, Pa., asked that the case be reopened after his client was not paid anything on an April 12 \$400,000 promissory note for the team and its parent company, Trans - National Communications Inc.

McCaw said the escrow was opened and closed July 10 behind "a wall of secrecy built around the transaction to defraud at least this creditor and the court as a consequence."

The escrow money was placed with the Wells-Fargo Bank's main office.

Seals' Tickets to JUL 23 1970 Cost More

By ED SCHOENFELD
Tribune Sports Writer

Oakland's Seals, under the new ownership of Charles O. Finley, will raise ticket prices across the board.

Just how much the new prices will be has not yet been determined, reports William Torrey, vice president of the hockey club.

"There will be a complete revision of our price range," Torrey said yesterday in reply to a question at the Bay Area Sports Writers and Sportscasters meeting.

Torrey pointed out that Oakland's prices — \$2.50 to \$5.50 — have been the lowest in the National Hockey League.

"It's been a concern to the rest of the league," he said.

"The average top price in the league," he said, "is \$6.50.

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out of here," Glover said. "I
don't want

For Tickets

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The lowest elsewhere is \$6.00. New York has the highest top price, \$8.50."

Also, Torrey said, the Seals are in the midst of re-scaling the Coliseum Arena for the new range of ticket prices.

"One thing is certain," Torrey emphasized, "we will continue our policy of a half-price ticket for children."

Torrey was expected to unveil the world's first pair of white hockey skates at the meeting yesterday. The skates had been given as a gift to Finley.

The Seals vice president brought the skates along, but didn't display them. He was supposed to have presented the skates to Coach Fred Glover. He didn't.

Glover at first refused to pose for a picture with the skates.

"I'm going to dump them out of here," Glover said. "I don't want any part of them."

The coach held his finger on his nose and did pose with Seals defenseman Doug Roberts as they stood on the balcony of the Jack London Inn, suspending the skates in the air. He didn't drop them.

"I'm kinda happy we're not going to wear white skates," Roberts said. "It's bad enough as it is going into Chicago and Montreal, without getting catcalls over white skates."

Torrey said the Seals have sent out contracts to its 20 protected players, 18 players and two goalies. As yet, he said, there have been no responses.

Under NHL rules, the players have until Aug. 1 to respond. After that, there can be negotiations or arbitration.

"Last year," Torrey said, "we were the first club in the league to sign all 20 players." Actually according to Torrey, the Seals already have two players signed to contracts.

The signees are winger Don O'Donoghue, a first-year pro who was with the Seals all last year; and center Joe Hardy, who shared his time last year between the Seals and Providence.

Finley Revs Up JUL 11 1970 Seal Operation

Charles O. Finley waded into the problems of his Oakland Seals yesterday, still a little nettled over the manner in which his \$4.5 million purchase of the club was closed in a pre-dawn session earlier in the day.

Finley, who met for several hours yesterday afternoon with the entire Seals' front office staff to get cracking on long-delayed club business, didn't want to talk much about the closing when reached at the Coliseum last night.

"It's over," he said, "I don't want to talk about it any more. We are satisfied with the closing and I can only speak for my part in the matter."

But Finley was obviously miffed over the charges by Trans-National Communications, Inc. of New York that he was short of cash and couldn't complete the deal as a pproved by the National Hockey League.

Even as a TNC spokesman in New York was feeding the press the accusations, Finley already had more than \$3.2 million in cash on deposit in the Wells Fargo bank in San Francisco to settle up.

Negotiations to close began Tuesday and were concluded at 4:30 a.m. yesterday at the bank as a dozen attorneys supervised the signing of appropriate documents and the Finley downpayment of \$2.6 million in cash.

Yesterday afternoon, Finley gathered the Seal management — executive vice president Bill Torrey, general manager Frank Selke, comptroller Larry Marshall, ticket manager Sam Russo, promotions director Frank Sanchez and publicist Bob Bestor — to get the operation rolling again.

Subjects of discussion were prices for next season.

Finley said the names of Seal players would be worn on the backs of the uniforms this season.

Also up for immediate consideration is the league re-

quirement that player contracts for the 1970-71 season be in the mail by next Wednesday.

Finley was to continue the meetings today.

Seal Deal

JUL 10 1970

Still Not Settled

For the second straight day, negotiations between Charles O. Finley and Trans-National Communications of New York aimed at closing the baseball owners' \$4.5 million purchase of the Oakland Seals, ended without success.

Although a battery of attorneys representing all facets of the complicated sale met in lengthy session yesterday, attempts to compromise on certain issues were fruitless.

Negotiations were to continue again today.

One source indicated late last night that Finley and TNC were "miles apart" in their positions, mostly with regard to the list of current payables and certain delayed contracts.

Neither Finley nor TNC representatives could be reached for comment.

Finley Denies Deal For Seals Snagged

JUL 9 - 1970

By SPENCE CONLEY

Tribune Sports Writer

Hold everything! The Charlie Finley deal to buy the Oakland Seals may be coming unstuck.

Trans-National Communications of New York accused the Athletics' owner last night of reneging on his \$4.5 million purchase of the hockey team, but Finley counter-charged that TNC failed to provide the necessary documents to close the deal.

Barry Mendelson, a TNC spokesman in New York, said

that Finley "failed to meet the terms and conditions established by the National Hockey League for purchasing the Oakland Seals. . . ."

"He said he was short of cash and couldn't purchase the club for the \$4.5 million sale price," Mendelson continued.

Mendelson said that TNC now wants to reestablish its prior agreement with Roller Derby promoter Jerry Seltzer, heading a group of pro-football men who also offered

\$4.5 million for the bankrupt club.

Finley, reached last night at the Coliseum where he was attending the A's-Twins game, said he was "surprised such a statement was made."

A spokesman for Finley declared flatly that the baseball owner had not reneged, nor is he short of cash. He said the sale was not closed because TNC attorneys had failed to provide the necessary closing documents.

The spokesman said Finley

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creditors were stricken from

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deposited \$3.2 million in cash in the Wells Fargo bank in San Francisco yesterday, more than \$500,000 over the amount needed to close the deal.

"Mr. Finley is ready, willing, and able to close, and it should have closed, except that the TNC people hadn't done their homework," he said.

They were supposed to provide a certified list of creditors, but many legitimate creditors were stricken from that list and will have to be reinstated.

The spokesman stated that the Finley offer includes the assumption of \$1.8 million in TNC obligations, plus a cash down payment of \$2,698,000.

But since the deal was agreed to, Finley has made an \$84,000 payment on an obligation to the Shasta Telecasting Co., a former Seal owner.

Additionally, Finley deposited \$25,000 in cash into the Seal bank account in order to meet the current payroll.

When TNC purchased the Seals a year ago, it missed five consecutive closing dates.

(The Tribune has learned, too, that TNC allowed a \$4.5 million insurance policy on all the Seal assets, mostly players, to lapse on May 15. The premium due was about \$4,000.)

The spokesman emphasized that Finley's offer was to match Seltzer's, not to exceed it, and TNC appears to be attempting to get an improvement from Finley of the Seltzer offer.

Seltzer said he was "extremely surprised" over the TNC statement and said his group, at this stage, "has no position in the matter at all."

In Montreal, Clarence Campbell, president of the National Hockey League, said "I don't know what they're talking about."

He said that Finley has until July 15 to come up with the money.

Finley Seeks Full Radio-TV Pact

JUL 3 - 1970

By SPENCE CONLEY
Tribune Sports Writer

New Seal owner Charles O. Finley, powered up by enthusiasm over the acquisition of the National Hockey League franchise, is wasting little time in digging into the problems of his beleaguered hockey team.

Finley revealed last night from Chicago that his initial objective is to work out a full-time, home-road radio package and a TV contract for home games — something none of the four other Seal

owners could accomplish.

At the same time, Finley said he has obtained an artist's conception of what his club's new Kelly green and gold uniforms will look like and has called for immediate meetings with equipment manufacturers to have the uniforms created as quickly as possible.

Finley also said he has taken steps to satisfy debts owed to the Providence, R.I., Reds of the American Hockey League in order to maintain a strong relationship with the

operators of the Seal development team.

But the baseball owner has plans to get a development club of his own and strengthen the scouting system by the hiring of more full and part-time people.

And yesterday, he authorized deposit of a considerable amount of money from A's receipts into the Seal account to pay off immediately more than \$3,000 in overdue phone bills and a hefty chunk of past-due office rent.

Finley has called a press

conference for 11 a.m. Monday at the Coliseum to reveal additional details about his operational plans, both generally and specifically.

As for the pumping of some radio-TV life into the Seals, Finley explained the situation this way:

"Hockey is a relatively new sport for many people in the Bay Area. Attendance has not been good over the last three years. We want to do everything we can to build up that attendance.

"We are merchandising a

product. It just happens to be hockey, but that doesn't change the merchandising procedures. We've got two ways to go with our fans: we get them to come to the games or we bring the games to them.

"Our goal is to bring hockey into the living rooms. Hockey broadcasting is so fast and exciting that it's bound to stir curiosity. Once we get people interested, then they'll come to see us," Finley said.

Finley stated that the televising of home games is far

less expensive than the road games and thus more attractive for potential advertisers. He said he already has talked to would-be sponsors and has meetings set next week with Channel 44, the Kaiser UHF station, and a couple of radio stations.

Finley said he was "extremely distressed" by a message from Oakland Coliseum Inc. to the NHL governors about a \$120,000 rental dispute concerning the Athletics.

"I felt the timing of it was grossly unfair," he said.

"There is a strong difference of opinion over monies due and over what is and what is not included in the rental contract, including charges which I do not believe are ours.

"But I want a time to sit down with them to discuss these things, to see if we'll have to submit them to arbitration as is provided in the contract," he added. "But I have been pictured as having reneged on the payment of rent, and that's unfair.

"I've asked as recently as two weeks ago, stating first

our disagreement to the charges, that such a meeting be scheduled," he said.

"I'm hopeful we can set up a date with the Coliseum board and review this. If we can't come to an agreement, then it would be properly submitted to arbitration."

Finley said about half the amount is on charges for parking lot cleanup. He contends he is to receive 27½ per cent of gross parking revenue, arguing that "gross" exempts him from cleanup costs.